

River valley from Tuckaseigee to Whittier. These areas are characterized by foothills with smooth ridge tops and moderately steep side slopes and moderately steep toe slopes at the base of steep mountains at elevations below 3,000 feet. Slopes are mostly in the range of ten (10) to twenty-five (25%) percent.¹

(6) Chester-Saluda - Hayesville Association.

These soils are well drained soils on steep and very steep mountains at elevations generally below 3,000 feet.

This association occupies about twelve (12%) percent of the land area of the county. It is located on the lower slopes of the mountains which form the sides of Scott, Soco, and Savannah Creeks and the Tuckaseigee River valleys. This association is characterized by mountains with narrow ridge tops and steep and very steep side slopes. Slopes are generally in the range of twenty-five (25) to sixty (60%) percent.²

CLIMATE

The climate of Jackson County is temperate with mild winters. Summer-time is usually short with cool nights and wintertime finds only a small amount of snow. The average annual snowfall is approximately 10.2 inches. The temperature ranges from 39.1 degrees in January to 73.2 degrees in July, with a yearly average of 56.0 degrees.

The average annual precipitation for the county is 48.7 inches, ranging from 5.19 inches in March to 2.91 inches in October. The average length of the frost-free growing season is 172 days, extending from the last week in April through the second week in October. These statistics are as recorded at the Cullowhee station.³ Higher elevations usually experience more extreme weather.

¹Ibid.

²Ibid.

³U. S. Department of Commerce, Environmental Science Services Administration, Climates of the States, Climate of North Carolina, 1971.